
U.S. Department of the Interior • U.S. Geological Survey

MINERAL INDUSTRY SURVEYS

Gordon P. Eaton, Director

Reston, VA 20192

For information, contact:

John W. Blossom, Commodity Specialist

Telephone: (703) 648-4964, Fax: (703) 648-7757

E-mail: jblossom@usgs.gov

Lisa Harley, Statistical Assistant

Barbara McNair, Statistical Assistant

MINES-DATA: (703) 648-7799

MINES FaxBack: (703) 648-4999

Internet: <http://minerals.er.usgs.gov/minerals>

MOLYBDENUM IN MARCH 1997

Domestic production of molybdenum in concentrate increased 3% in March 1997 compared with that of the previous month and was 11% more than in March 1996, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Producer molybdenum stocks in concentrate, oxide, and other product forms were 8,250 metric tons at the beginning of 1997 and 8,690 metric tons at the end of March 1997.

Included in this Mineral Industry Surveys (MIS) are U.S. production, shipments, and stocks of molybdenum concentrates and materials, plus U.S. consumption by end use of molybdenum in March 1997. Also included are trade data for February 1997. During March 1997, Platt's Metals Week U.S.

monthly average price for molybdenum concentrate was \$4.960 per kilogram (\$2.250 per pound).

The average price for dealer molybdenum oxide was \$9.905 per kilogram (\$4.493 per pound) and that for dealer ferromolybdenum was \$12.070 per kilogram (\$5.475 per pound).

For the week ending June 6, 1997, Metals Week U.S. average price for molybdenum concentrate was \$4.960 per kilogram (\$2.250 per pound). The average price for dealer molybdenum oxide was \$9.998 per kilogram (\$4.525 per pound) and that for ferromolybdenum was \$11.904 per kilogram (\$5.400 per pound).

TABLE 1
U.S. SALIENT MOLYBDENUM CONCENTRATE STATISTICS 1/

(Metric tons, contained molybdenum)

Item	1996 p/	1997		
		February	March	Year to date
Production	56,000	5,030 r/	5,160	15,600
Shipments: 2/				
Domestic	16,100	1,130	1,120	3,580
Export	19,700	1,630 r/	1,640	5,130

p/ Preliminary. r/ Revised.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits.

2/ Includes molybdic oxides, metal powder, ammonium molybdate, sodium molybdate, and other.

TABLE 2
U.S. REPORTED CONSUMPTION, BY END USES, AND CONSUMER STOCKS OF MOLYBDENUM MATERIALS IN MARCH 1997

(Kilograms, contained molybdenum)

End use	Molybdic oxides	Ferro molybdenum 2/	Ammonium and sodium molybdate	Molybdenum scrap	Other	Total
Steel:						
Carbon	39,600	W	--	--	W	39,600
Stainless and heat-resisting	231,000	10,800	--	--	--	242,000
Full alloy	206,000	178,000	--	--	W	384,000
Electrical	W	W	--	--	W	W
High-strength low-alloy	32,800	9,890	--	--	--	42,700
Tool	78,800	4,760	--	--	W	83,500
Cast irons (gray, malleable, and ductile iron)	3,200	56,200	--	--	W	59,400
Superalloys	W	W	--	59,600	38,300	97,900
Alloys: (other than steels, cast irons, and superalloys)						
Welding materials (structural and hard-facing)	--	--	--	--	W	W
Other alloys 3/	--	--	--	--	W	W
Mill products made from metal powder 4/	--	--	--	--	--	--
Cemented carbides and related products 5/	--	221	--	--	--	221
Chemical and ceramic uses:						
Pigments	--	--	1,040	--	--	1,040
Catalysts	77,300	--	W	--	W	77,300
Other 6/	W	--	--	--	W	W
Miscellaneous uses:						
Lubricants	--	--	--	--	10,200	10,200
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--
Unspecified uses:	74,800	44,500	78,100	--	183,000	381,000
Total	744,000	304,000	79,100	59,600	232,000	1,420,000
Stocks, March 31, 1997	520,000	187,000	9,480	44,100	809,000	1,570,000

W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included with "Unspecified uses."

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes calcium molybdate.

3/ Includes magnetic and nonferrous alloys.

4/ Includes ingot, wire, rod, and sheet.

5/ Includes construction, mining, oil and gas, and metal working machinery.

6/ Includes ground coat, glass, silicone, electroplating, and drier in paint or related uses.

TABLE 3
U.S. REPORTED PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENTS OF MOLYBDENUM PRODUCTS 1/

(Metric tons, contained molybdenum)

Product	1996 p/	1997		
		February r/	March	Year to date
Gross production	46,300	4,720	4,070	13,600
Internal consumption 2/	23,900	2,070	1,890	6,210
Gross shipments	24,100	2,440	1,930	7,020

p/ Preliminary. r/ Revised.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits.

2/ Includes molybdc oxides, metal powder, ammonium molybdate, sodium molybdate, and other.

TABLE 4
U. S. EXPORTS OF MOLYBDENUM ORES AND CONCENTRATES
(INCLUDING ROASTED CONCENTRATE), BY COUNTRY 1/

(Kilograms, contained molybdenum)

Country	1996	1997		
		January	February	Year to date
Australia	60,900	9,090	--	9,090
Belgium	12,400,000	1,150,000 r/	1,360,000	2,510,000
Brazil	20,400	--	339	339
Canada	268,000	34,000 r/	--	34,000
Chile	6,990,000	737,000 r/	633,000	1,370,000
China	1,290,000	140,000 r/	--	140,000
France	5,620	--	--	--
Germany	505,000	--	59,600	59,600
India	58,600	--	--	--
Italy	384,000	19,900	58,700	78,600
Japan	5,140,000	559,000 r/	549,000	1,110,000
Korea, Republic of	10,200	--	--	--
Mexico	5,500,000	519,000 r/	197,000	716,000
Netherlands	5,890,000	1,000,000 r/	1,590,000	2,590,000
Spain	19,900	18,400	10,500	28,900
Sweden	473,000	80,000 r/	19,900	99,900
United Kingdom	6,010,000	1,160,000 r/	235,000	1,390,000
Other	--	9,030	508	9,540
Total	45,000,000	5,440,000 r/	4,710,000	10,100,000

r/ Revised.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 5
U.S. EXPORTS OF FERROMOLYBDENUM, BY COUNTRY 1/

(Kilograms, contained molybdenum)

Country	1996	1997		
		January	February	Year to date
Canada	252,000	34,000	36,100	70,100
China	--	130	--	130
Japan	117,000	2,650	--	2,650
Korea, Republic of	1,910	--	--	--
Malaysia	37,200	--	--	--
Mexico	117,000	1,980	15,800	17,800
Singapore	53,900	--	--	--
Spain	1,160	--	--	--
Taiwan	--	--	905	905
Venezuela	1,090	--	--	--
Total	581,000	38,800	52,800	91,600

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 6
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF MOLYBDENUM PRODUCTS 1/

(Kilograms unless otherwise specified)

Material	1996			1997		
	January-December			January-February		
	Gross weight	Contained molybdenum	Value (c.i.f.) (thousands)	Gross weight	Contained molybdenum	Value (c.i.f.) (thousands)
Ore and concentrates roasted	8,090,000	5,460,000	\$41,300,000	1,380,000	861,000	\$8,290,000
Ore and concentrates other	35,600	21,100	173,000	20,000	12,000	106,000
Molybdenum chemicals:						
Oxides and hydroxides	1,160,000	--	8,850,000	349,000	--	2,590,000
Molybdates of ammonium	665,000	368,000	5,360,000	140,000	69,900	1,070,000
Molybdates (all others)	82,500	36,400	506,000	57,000	33,900	350,000
Molybdenum orange	1,840,000	--	5,710,000	258,000	--	860,000
Mixtures of inorganic compounds	--	--	--	--	--	--
Ferromolybdenum	7,870,000	4,960,000	55,100,000	1,150,000	728,000	7,720,000
Molybdenum powders	125,000	110,000	3,470,000	13,700	11,200	474,000
Molybdenum unwrought	91,100	84,400	2,380,000	55,200	53,000	765,000
Molybdenum waste and scrap	693,000	640,000	9,720,000	41,600	40,500	445,000
Molybdenum wrought	--	--	--	--	--	--
Molybdenum wire	1,990	--	320,000	286	--	47,500
Molybdenum other	3,870	--	1,060,000	592	--	138,000
Total	20,700,000	11,700,000	134,000,000	3,470,000	1,810,000	22,900,000

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: Bureau of the Census.